



STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
*Governor*

August 14, 2006

Maria Cino, Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Cino:

On behalf of the State of Indiana I would like to personally thank you for your gracious assistance and patience in helping our State navigate the Federal Rulemaking Process and move one step closer to time synchronization with the rest of the country. Enclosed with this letter are two sets of petitions for changes of time zones. The first set represents a consolidated position requesting that five counties in Southwest Indiana, Daviess, Dubois, Knox, Martin, and Pike Counties, be moved from the Central time zone to Eastern. The second petition is for Pulaski County, in Northwest Indiana, to also be moved from Central to Eastern.

For decades people across the country (and many of those here in Indiana) have had to ask the question, "What time is it in Indiana?" Now, after decades, Indiana is observing Daylight Saving Time, along with the rest of the country. For the first time, with the Department's help, we are no longer faced with most of our state being on Eastern Time half the year and Central the other half. The certainty of scheduling, so essential to commerce, is finally a reality for all of Indiana.

For the vast majority of the 76 Indiana counties that joined the world of Daylight Saving Time, the selection of time zone was not difficult. However, several of our counties located near the Central time zone have a more complicated situation. As is undoubtedly true at the borders of any time zone, there are cross-currents on the question of which time zone maximizes economic potential. Data and sentiment exist to support either option, and sorting out these complexities must be undertaken with care.

I am confident in saying that care has been taken in assessing this important decision in each of the six Indiana counties now petitioning for a change from Central to Eastern Time.

As you know, during the original round of decision-making on time zone selection in 2005, these six counties petitioned for an opposite result – to be included in the Central time zone. The law passed in 2005 that put Indiana on DST also specifically encouraged each individual county to assert its own view on the choice of time zone, and bound the state to support that view.

As governor, my longstanding position has been that local preference should be respected as much as possible. Unless a county's stated preference disrupts the greater good of a larger region, it is the citizens of these localities, not anyone at the state or federal capital, whose views should be given priority.

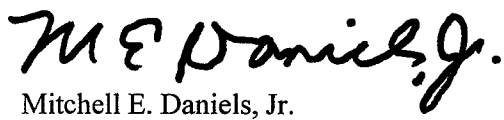
It is important to note that during the initial petition process, the counties in these affected regions were forced to make their petitions not knowing for certain which time zone their neighbor counties

would land in. There were assumptions made that in some cases turned out not to be true. Much greater weight should be given to the more solid and more informed judgments made in this second phase.

After reviewing their petitions, I hope you will agree that Pulaski County in Northwest Indiana and Daviess, Dubious, Knox, Martin, and Pike Counties in Southwest Indiana belong in the Eastern Standard time zone. By issuing a final rule in favor of this change, you will put still more of the State of Indiana on one time zone than ever before. This additional clarity on the time question will advance economic growth in Indiana, which is the sole reason we have pursued this matter from the start.

Thank you for your time and continued consideration on this issue. If I or any of my fellow Hoosiers can be of service to answer your questions or provide any supplementary information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "ME Daniels, Jr." in a cursive style.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

Cc: Indiana Congressional Delegation